Antient Testimony

OF THE

Primitive Christians,

AND

MARTYRS of *JESUS CHRIST*,

Revived, against TYTHES.

Or, A RELATION of the Sufferings of WILLIAM DOBSON, of *Slade-end* in the Parish of BRIGHTWELL in BARKSHIRE, because for Conscience-sake he could not pay Tythes unto *RALPH WHISTLER*, Tyth-monger of the same Parish; And for Thirteen Years was much Exercised by Imprisonment, and loss of Goods: And the last Day of the 3*d*. Month call'd *May* 1677. Dyed a Prisoner for the same.

To which is anexed,

A short Account of the Sufferings of *Michael Reynolds* of *FARRINGDON* in the same County, because he could not for Conscience-sake, pay TYTHES to *ROBERT PYE*.

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the Flesh, Arm your selves likewise with the same mind; For he that hath suffered in the Flesh, ceased from Sin: For the time past of our Life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in wantonness, Lusts, Drunkenness, and abominable Idolatries, wherein they think it strange that you run not with them to the same Excess of Ryot, speaking evil of You, who shall give account to him that is ready to Judge the Quick and the Dead. 1. Pet. 4. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Having a good Conscience, that whereas they speak evil of You, as of Evil Doers, they may be ashamed that falsly accuse your good Conversation in Christ. 1 Pet. 3. 16.

He that oppresseth the Poor to increase his Riches, shall surely come to want.

LONDON, Printed in the Year MDCLXXX.

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To the Moderate READER.

FRIEND,

HOw great have been the Sufferings that many honeſt men, (yea, ſuch as truly feared the Lord, and hated Covetouſneſs,) have ſuſtained and undergone; and what ſpoil and havock have been made upon many peoples Goods within this 25 years, and ſome have died in naſty Goals and Priſons, whereby their Wives have been made Widows, and their Children left Fatherleſs; Because they could not for Conſcience-ſake pay Tythes to Pariſh Miniſters and Impropriators, which is all one in the ground, as hath been plainly manifeſted by many Teſtimonies, that have been publiſhed, which are extant in Prints, that Tythes as they are now forced and paid, are Antichriſtian: though there was a time under the Law, in which the Levitical Prieſthood had a command to receive Tythes of their brethren: But after Chriſt Jeſus came in the Fleſh, and was offered up, which fulfilled the Law, and firſt Covenant, and put an end to that Prieſthood. We find no Preſident in the Holy-Scriptures of the New-Teſtament for the payment of Tythes, but the contrary, as may be ſeen Heb. 7th. chap. and ſo forward; where the Apoſtle ſpeaks much concerning the firſt Covenant, Prieſthood, and Offerings appertaining thereunto: and (ſaith he.) The Prieſthood being changed, there is made of neceſſity a change of the Law; and ſo goes on ſpeaking of Chriſt Jeſus the one offering, and everlaſting High-Prieſt to them that believe; as is largly treated on there, which the Reader may do well to peruſe, who deſires ſatisfaction therein.

And although the Children of Levi, which received the office of that Prieſthood, had a command to take (according to the Law) Tythes of their Brethren, yet we do not find they ſued men at Law, and took three times the value or ten times the value of ſuch as refuſed to pay, as ſome do now adays, we can have no reaſonable pretence to be of the Tribe of Levi, but rather of them whom the Lord ſent his Prophets to cry againſt, who preached for hire, and ſought for their gain from their Quarter, and cryed Peace, Peace, to ſuch as put into their mouths, and them that put not into their mouths, they prepared War againſt, as it is at this day.

And Christ Jesus when he sent forth his Ministers to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, to heal the Sick, cleanse the Leapers, &c. *He bid them provide neither Gold, nor Silver, nor Brass in their Purses: But* freely ye have received, freely give. *To preach freely the Gospel to all Nations; and he that sent them out, provided for them, so that they wanted nothing: And the great care of the true Ministers of Christ was,* that they might not make the Gospel chargable, *but rather wrought with their hands. They did not settle themselves in large Benifices, and make a bargain with the People for so much a year to be their Minister, or Sue People for Maintainance; but witnessed against such an hireling Ministry, and their forced Maintainance also, whose Testimony the Lord hath again revived.*

The Martyrs likewise, many of them did bear Testimony against Tythes, and it was an Article amongst others, for which some suffered in the burning Flames, by the merciless Papists in Queen Maries *days, worthy of the remembrance of all true Christian Protestants.*

So it is no new thing that the People of the Lord (called Quakers) *have suffered so deeply for, but the ancient Testimony to the Coming, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; which they that plead for Tythes in this Gospel-day, do in effect deny.*

And as for our Friend William Dobson, *deceased, we have this to say, That his Neighbours and Country-men, (yea his very Enemies) can tell, he was an honest man, a peacable quiet man: And many who for many years were fellow Prisoners with him in* Redding *Goal, can testifie (from a certain knowledge, if need were) much concerning his Integrity to the Lord, and his blessed Truth, for he loved the Prosperity thereof, and was a zealous Contender for the same; a very plain man, and of a quiet frame of Spirit, very cheerful and loving, and not given to change; and in all his Exercises and Sufferings, we never heard him in the least to murmur or complain, but always freely owned up in his Testimony, for the unchangable truth, wherein he was concerned, being very well satisfied therein. This in short is written, not desiring to multiply expressions in praise of our Friend, but proceed to give an account of his sufferings for the Truth sake, and leave it upon Record to Posterity. Published by some of the People called* Quakers, *in* Redding, *who were his Fellow-prisoners for many years.*

THE

THE Antient TESTIMONY OF THE Primitive CHRISTIANS And Martyrs of JESUS CHRIST, Revived against Tyths, &c.

IN the year 1664, which was not long after it pleased the Lord to reveal his truth and way everlasting, unto *William Dobson*, he was arrested (because he conscientiously refus'd to pay Tythes) at the Suit of *R. Whistler*, and in the month called *October*, was had to *Redding* Goal and kept 15 weeks, and then some related to him, (without his knowledge,) paid *R. W.* his Demands, and so was released for that time.

But the next year he was arrested again at *R. W's* Suit for Tythes, and had to *Redding* Goal in the 11 month 1665, and kept there near 15 weeks and then was removed to *Westminster*, *London*, and made a Prisoner at the *Fleet*, and in a short time after brought before the Court in *Westminster*; where he was falsly accused with a Debt of 35*l.* 11*s.* at the Suit of *Ralph Whistler*. The Judges ask'd *William* who was his Attorney? He told them, he had no Attorney, but was there in person to answer what they had to charge him with: and and whereas he was charged with a Debt of 35*l.* 11*s.* at the Suit of *R. Whistler*, he then declared that he owed him nothing: then they said, *Here is a Declaration against you, and you must return an answer to it*; and *William* took the Declaration, and told the Court he would return an Answer to it, and so he was had back again to the *Fleet*. And the Declaration being in *Latin*, and Court-hand, he could not read it, so as to understand it but saw his Name was not in it, so he sent to a Lawyer, who drew up a Plea to this effect: *That it could not be understood that he was the person intended in the Declaration, because*

from his Nativity been known by the name of Dobſon, *and by no other name, as likewiſe his Anceſtors before him.* So his Anſwer was delivered into the Court by a Serjeant: and ſome that underſtood the Law, told *William* he would be Non-ſuited the next Term, it being not effectual in Law, for a man to be arreſted by one name, and proſecuted by another. But inſtead thereof, the next Term *Ralph Whiſtler*'s Attorney brought *William* a peremptory Rule from the Court, that unleſs he did rejoyn by *Saturday* next, Judgment ſhould be entred againſt him; telling ſome that were Priſoners in the *Fleet* the ſame time with *William*, that he could whiſper in the Judges ear, [mark] and tell him what he was, and ſo carry on his deſign againſt him; whereby he was conſtrained to put himſelf upon Tryal by the Country: and obtained leave of the Clark of the *Fleet* to be at the Aſſizes which was held at *Abingdon* for the County of *Bucks*, in the 5*th*. month, called *July*, 1666, where Judge *Twiſden* ſate Judge; and the firſt Tryal that was called was it, where *William* was called again by a wrong name, and he told the Jury, that was not his name; alſo one that ſtood by told the Judge, that *William Dobſon* had pleaded *Miſnomer*; but the Judge regarded it not, but fell into a paſſion, and threatned *William* becauſe of his Hat, often calling him Sirrah, and falſe Knave; to which *William* reply'd, that *He was a true man, and denied falſhood and deceit.* The Judge (inſtead of hearing his lawful defence) cauſed the Sheriffs men to hale him out of the Court, and his Adverſaries Witneſs was ſworn, and then *William* was brought again into the Court, and *R. Whiſtlers* Councellor (*Terſullus* like) began vehemently to accuſe *William*, for carrying away ſeveral Acres of Wheat, Barly, Beans, and Dills, no leſs than 13 Acres and a half more than he had, and the moſt part of ſuch Grain whereof he had none growing (namely Beans) their falſe Witneſs (to wit *John Smyth of Satwel*) not only confirming what had been ſaid by the Councellor, but likewiſe overvaluing it; ſaid that *Every Acre of wheat was worth* 4 *l. and the Tythes* 8 *s. and that every Acre of Barly was worth* 2 *l. and the Tythes* 4 *s.* &c. By which means the ſingle value amounted to almoſt 8 *l.* which at the deareſt Rate, when Wheat was at 10 *s.* the Buſhel, was valued at but 4 *l.* 10 *s.* the Tyche of *William*'s Farm by the year. The Judge cauſed the Clark to caſt it up, according as the Witneſs had falſly ſworn, and the treble Damage amounted to 23 *l.* and odd Mony, and then called to the Jury, to give in their Verdict, Who they found for, the Plaintiff, or the Defendant? whereupon *William* deſired that the Jury might go together and conſider of the matter, giving them to underſtand that his Adverſaries Witneſs had ſworn very falſly, both as to the number of Acres, and alſo as to the value of the Corn, and of ſuch Grain of which it was well known to the Neighbours he had none growing. Nevertheleſs the Judge (being in a Paſſion) would not [illegible] from the Bar, but muſt give in their Verdict, and threa-

ries the Defendant to lay him by the heels, telling him he disturb'd the Court, for thus Speaking in his own just defence, denying their Lyes and false Accusations. And the Judge being thus set against the Defendant, the Jury brought in for the Plaintiff, and the next Term they brought forth an Execution against him, by a wrong name likewise. And the 17th. day of the 9th. month 1666. *Richard White*, an Ale-house-keeper in *Wallingford* with two lewd Fellows more of the baser sort, *Ralph Whistler* with his Servants assisting them with his Horse, and drew away *William*'s Cart, and Wheels, and Cart-rope to his own House; they likewise led and drove away all the Cattle *William* had, and some Horses and Cows that were none of his (being on his ground) although he told them they were none of his: The goods they took away were valued at 40*l.* whereupon *William* gave the Under-Sheriff an account of the value of Goods which they had took from him, and that some of the Goods were not his; the Under-Sheriff promised to rectifie the business, but was not as good as his Word. And although *Ralph Whistler* had taken nine times the value of the Tythe demanded; yet he wisht he had had so much more, and that *William* had nothing left him, and that it should not be long before he would have him in Prison again, and also in a Neighbours House laid violent Hands on *William*, and wrapt one of his Fists in the Hair of his Head, and Struck him on the Head and Face, *&c.* Insomuch that the Constable could hardly get him off from abusing him: which manifested great envie as well as unreasonableness. That nothing but the Ruine of this poor Man could be expected, had not the Lords power upheld him. But *R. W.* Was as good as his word in what he before threatned, *viz.* that it should not be long before he would have him in Prison again, for having taken away his Goods as before mentioned he soon caused his Body to be taken up again, thereby endeavouring what in them lay (as appears by their actions) to hinder him in his Imployment in manuring his Land for another Crop, towards the maintinance of his Family. About the middle of the 9th. Month 1667. *William Dobson* was Arrested again for Tythes at *Ralph Whistler*'s Suit, to which he gave an Appearance, and thereby had liberty to follow his Imployment till the Assizes, which was about the middle of the 12th. Month following, holden at *Reading*, where it came to be Tryed, and (the same) Judge *Twisdon* sate Judge, who spying *William* in the Court with his Hat on, gave him such another Salutation as he did before, at the Assizes at *Abingdon* the last year, *viz.* Come Sirrah, will you not put off your Hat yet? threatning to lay him by th' Heels before *William* had spoken any thing whereby to make him so Angry. *R. W.*'s Councellor began to Plead against *William* after their usual manner, for Carrying away his Hay and Corn without paying Tythe; which they valued (as they said)

12 l. and odd Mony, which with treble Damages amounted to 36 l. and odd Mony: and for proof thereof R. VV. brought his former False Witness John Smith of Satwel; against whose Evidence VVilliam made exception, signifying to the Judge, that that was the Man who at the Assizes held at Abingdon the year before had Sworn falsly against him, and therefore his Evidence ought not to be received. The Judge asked whether he had Indicted him for Perjury? VVilliam said no; but I can prove it against him; then the Judge said he must receive his Evidence, until he be Indicted; so Smith was Sworn, who took Oath that every Acre of Wheat was worth 50 s. Which was very false, for Wheat was then at a very low rate; and the Judge also said he could not see how it could be so much worth: however the Clark cast it up according to what Smith had Sworn, and the single value (they said) did amount to 12 l. (with treble Damges to 36 l.) But the Judge was so moderate that he left it to the Jury, and bid them to withdraw; and so they did; and abated one third part of that which the Witness had Sworn it was worth, (which signifieth they gave not much Credit to his Evidence.) The Jury brought in the single value at 8 l. With treble Damages at 24 l. and thereupon Ralph Whistler brought an Execution: and the 20th. day of the 3 Month 1668. Moses Slade then Under-Sherriff, and Thomas Skeats of Redding, Bayliff, Seized on, and took away from William Dobson a Gelding, and four Cows, (all he had) and drove them to Wallingford, and Sold them for 14 l. and which were well worth 17 l. And when they had taken away the Goods without Doors, R. VV. not being satisfied therewith, stirred up the Under-Sherriff to go again to take away more Goods, who sent two very bad Fellows (as by their actions appeared,) namely, William Child, and Henry Weston, Bayliffs; who went into William Dobson's House the 19th. day of the same month, and took away all the Pewter and Brass they could find, as Kettle, Skillet, Platters, and Skimmer. One Bed and Bolster, one pair of Blankets, two pair of Sheets, four Sacks and a Winnowing-sheet: also of wearing-cloths, a Doubler, two pair of Breeches, and a great Coat of William's, and two Wastcoats, four Petticoats, and a Scarge Hood of his Wives. And when they had loaded upon the Horse what they had got within doors, they went about to drive away the Hoggs that were left; but the Swine ran away, and would not be drove by them; and so they had not the Hoggs that time. But the other Goods they carried to the George Inn in Wallingford, which Goods and Cloaths were worth about 11 l. but what they sold it for we have not heard. Yet, notwithstanding, Ralph Whistler was not satisfied, as if indeed he were resolved to ruine, or at least to weary out this poor man. Having heard that he had bought some more Cows to yield some Milk for his Children, sent Child the Bayliff again, and his Brother, in the 11th. month, 1668. to

William's

William's Houſe, and then they took away three Cows, which was all he had, and were worth 10 *l.* So that the Goods taken away on this Execution as before is mentioned, for 8 *l.* the ſingle value demanded: in Cattle and Houſhold-goods, and wearing-cloths, was valued to be worth thirty eight Pounds.

Yet the next Year *Ralph Whiſtler* cauſed *William* to be Arreſted again, and in the 8 Month 1669. Or in a ſhort time after was ſent to *Reading Goal*, from his poor Wife and Children; and the latter end of the 9*th.* Month following, he was removed by *Habias Corpus* to *Weſtminſter*; and returned over in Court, and at the riſing of the Court was called to the Barr, and Charged and asked who was his Atturney, whereupon he nominated *William Church* Clark of the *Fleet*, and gave him his Fee, and appointed him to put in a Plea of *Nell debet parpatriam* to the Declaration, which he promiſed to do, and *William* expected a Tryal at the next Aſſizes holden at *Reding* in the firſt Month 1670. But ſo it was, that he had no Tryal, nevertheleſs upon the 16*th.* day of the ſame Month *William Childe* the Bayliffe, and *Robert Hopkings* took away all the Cattel that *William* had, *viz. Horſes*, *Cows*, and *Hoges*, and drove them all to an Inn in *Wallingford*, and Sold them the next Market day for 19 *l.* But the Goods were valved to be well worth 80 *l.* they uſing to Sell large Penniworths of his Goods, or elſe they might have wanted Chapmen to take it off their hands. Indeed it is to be admired, how great the Lords Love and Mercy was to this *William Dobſon*, by which he was preſerved in patience to undergo ſo great exerciſes, and to look with an outward eye, it might ſeem ſtrange how the man could ſubſiſt and carry on his buſineſs to maintain ſuch a Familie, when no ſooner he can make ſhift to buy a few Cattle, but on a ſudden they are had away by Droves, and that at ſuch times in which it is moſt to his diſadvantage, and to more than the yearly value of what the Farm was worth by the year, beſides the loſs of time by Impriſonment, and toſſings of his Body from place to place into Confinements. But, to return again to the matter, this is not all, neither would all this before-related ſatisfie *William's* unwearied Adverſaries. But after *Ralph VVhiſtler* had thus cruelly dealt with him, the Prieſt of the Pariſh will needs have one fling at him; (and we ſay 'tis well if he did not encourage *R. VV.* in his eager proſecution and unreaſonable proceedings) and now *VVilliam's* Goods are gone, his Body muſt to Priſon again upon Excommunication, and the 29*th.* day of the firſt month before mentioned, in which *R. VV.* had cauſed all his Cattle to be fetch away. *VVilliam* was to viſit his Friends (who at that time were many) cloſe Priſoners, upon a conſciencious account, in *Reding* Goal, the Goaler ſeeing him there, told him, if he had not come he muſt have ſetcht him, and pull'd out a Warrant and ſhewed it to him, which came

from the Sheriff, for the apprehending *William Dobſon*, by virtue of a Writ of *Excommunicat' capiendo*: for not going to their Worſhips, and not receiving the Sacrament (as they called) when as he was ſo little out of Priſon, and ſo tumbled and toſſed up and down, that he was hardly in a capacity to go if he had been minded. But he did not only bear Teſtimony againſt the maintainance (*viz.* Tyths) but that Miniſtry which Preach for Hire, and Divine for Mony, and that Worſhip which is in the World out of the Leadings of God's holy and bleſſed Spirit. So *John Thorp* the Goaler ſtopp'd him, and kept him a Priſoner with the reſt of his Friends, whom he came in kindneſs to viſit, and continued a Priſoner two years and a half, and then it pleaſed the Lord ſo to order it, contrary to expectation, that *William* was releaſed with the reſt of his Friends, from their long Impriſonments, by the King's *Letters Patents* in the 8*th.* month called *October*, 1672.

And in the time of his Impriſonment on *Excomunicat' capiendo*, *Ralph Whiſtler* and his Servants, in the Harveſt time took away *William's* Corn in the Field, what they pleaſed, ſomtimes a whole Land of Corn together, after it was cut down, upon the account of Tyths, and at ſeveral times after a ſcambling manner, ſo that the value thereof, which in that two years and a halfs time was taken away in Corn, could not eaſily be computed.

But *William* being again out of Priſon, and through the bleſſing of Almighty God had a little increaſed his Stock, *Ralph Whiſtler* pretending that the former Execution was not yet Levied; upon the 24*th.* day of the 1*ſt.* month, 167¾ he ſent *John Button* a Bayliff, and *William Robins* Aſſiſtant of *Wallingford*, who ſeized on and drove away 4 Cows, and 3 Horſes, which were valued to be worth 27 *l.*

And the 28*th.* day of the ſame month, *William* having borrowed a Horſe (for he could not keep any of his own) his Man was drawing a Cart and Wheels with the Horſe, in *Wallingford* ſtreet, where *Moſes Slade* the under Sheriff, laid violent hands ou the man, and took the Cart and Wheels away from him, which were judged to be worth four Pound.

Again, *William* having bought ſome more Horſes to Plow withal, it being about or in the Seed-time, could not well be without, ſuppoſing by that time ſurely *Ralph Whiſtler* was ſatisfied; but the 13*th.* day of the 3*d.* month, 1674, *John Button* the Bayliff took away from *William's* Servant, out of his Team, two Colts with their Harneſs on, which were judged to be worth 9 *l.* upon the former Execution, as they pretended.

So that for two years Tyth demanded, at 4 *l.* 10 *s.* a year, which came to 9 *l.* theſe cruel and unreaſonable men (for ſo they have made their

their actions to render them to all that ſhall take a view thereof) took away and ſold as much Cattle, (*viz.*) Cows, Horſes, Hoggs, and other good and wearing-cloaths from *William Dobſon*, as was worth 78*l.* which was about eight times the ſingle value that *Ralph Whiſtler* demanded, which is very unreaſonable, and will ſurely be a blot, and bring a line of reflection (and that juſtly too) upon him and his Poſterity, though thereby he might think to increaſe his Riches, 'tis well if it prove not as a Canker in his Eſtate (as to ſome others ſuch gain has proved) which by Oppreſſion is heaped together. And the memory of ſuch unneighbourly proceedings will remain upon Record, when *Ralph Whiſtler* is gone to his Grave: and the Lord, if it be his Will forgive him, and lay not this to his charge, in that day when God ſhall open the Book of every mans Conſcience, and give righteous Judgment to every man according to their Deeds done in theſe Bodies, whether they are Good or Evil.

But to return again to the matter that's yet behind. In the beginning of the 3*d.* month, 1675, *William* being then at Liberty, was ſerved with a *Subpœna* to appear before the Barons of the Exchecquer, at the Suit of *Ralph Whiſtler*; and about the middle of the month following, he was arreſted by *William Child* Bayliff, with the Sheriff's Warrant but through the Sheriff's means was not ſent to Goal until the beginning of the 7*th.* month, called *September*; at which time the Goaler ſent for him to Priſon; and after a little time *William*, with 20 more of his Friends that were then Priſoners, were by the Goaler (*John Tharp*) ſhut up in two very cloſe Wards over the Dungeon, where the Felons lay ſick of the Small-pox; and one of them dying in the Dungeon with that Diſtemper, *John Thorp* cauſed the Muckle and nauſty Straw whereon the Felon dyed (which was in a very ſad and loathſom condition to look upon) to be burnt there in the Dungeon, underneath thoſe Rooms where *William* and his Friends were ſhut up; and the Smoak and infectious Dain thereof was ſo offenſive, as is hard to expreſs the ſame; which ſeized on ſeveral beſides *William*, and the ſame day he and ſeveral of the others grew ill and had the Diſtemper, and ſome died in a ſhort time after; and *William* was ſo nigh death, that few that ſaw him could think him a man likely to continue, and was given up by thoſe that were about him as a dying man. And at that ſeaſon the living Power of God, as a ſpring of Love and Life, fill'd his heart, and burſt out as a Stream, in uttering forth many heavenly Expreſſions, and wholſom Exhortations to his Frieuds and Brethren; to prize the Love of God, and to be faithful unto him; ſignifying how good the Lord had been unto him. And much more to the ſame effect he ſpoke, with fervent zeal and clearneſs, as if he had been in perfect ſtrength, to the comforting his Fellow-priſo-

priſoners. And ſpeaking ſo loud, ſome of the Goaler's Family (*viz. Walter Cowdry* and the Maid-ſervant) came up into the Wards, to hear and ſee what was the matter, and when he had fixt his eyes on them, he ſpoke very ſenſibly to them, and alſo concerning *John Thorp* and *Walter Cowdry* (the then Turn-key) their cruelty towards him and his Friends, and with great zeal he thunder'd out God's dreadful Judgmeuts, that (he ſaid) would ſuddenly be poured out, againſt the Goaler and his Confederates, in that barbarous proceeding againſt the Innocent, in ſuch Wickedneſs and Cruelty: Alſo ſignifying that the day of their viſitation was near at an end. And much more he ſpoke to that effect, to the admiration of all that were preſent. And the Goaler and his Wife are ſince both dead———

But it pleaſed Almighty God, with whom all things are poſſible, that after a long time of weakneſs, *William Dobſon* recovered a little ſtrength of body, and had a little Liberty to take the Air, and ſomtimes to go to ſee his Family, and be there to look a little over his outward concerns, but remained weakly in Body, and never recovered his former ſtrength from that time. And, notwithſtanding the Prieſt of the Pariſh, of whom *Ralph Whiſtler* rented the Tyth, was dead, and *Whiſtler* off from the Bargain of renting it, and had counted with the Prieſt before he dyed, and abated to the Prieſt what he valued the Tyth of *William's* Farm to be worth: Yet *Ralph Whiſtler* kept him a Priſoner for non-payment thereof to his dying day; though he owed him nothing; which (ſaid *William* in his life-time) is a further manifeſtation of *Ralph Whiſtler's* cruelty and unreaſonableneſs in his actinggs towards him for the ſpace of thirteen years, becauſe for the ſpace of thirteen years he could not for Conſcience-ſake pay Tyths. And the Lord in theſe troubles which he permitted him to be exerciſed withal, did wonderfully uphold and preſerve him, and bleſſed his endeavours; that notwithſtanding all the endeavours of his Adverſaries, which might tend to his ruine, yet he thrived in his outward Eſtate, which hath ben taken notice of by many; and that the eminent hand of the Almighty God was manifeſted greatly for his good every way, which is matter of encouragement unto all that are or hereafter may be called by the Lord to ſuffer for the ſame Teſtimony. Now, *William Dobſon*, having thus by the aſſiſtance of the Lord's Power fought the good Fight of Faith, and kept the Word of his Patience, laid down his head in Peace, and finiſhed his courſe, and upon the laſt day of the 3*d.* month, called *May*, 1677. he died a Priſoner for the Truth, and his name is recorded in the Book of Life amongſt the faithfull Sufferers and Martyrs, for the ancient Teſtimony of Jeſus Chriſt, againſt that great Oppreſſion of Tyths.

HERE

Here followeth A Brief RELATION Of the late Sufferings of Michael Reynolds

Of Farringdon, in the ſame County; becauſe he could not for Conſcience-ſake, pay Tyths, to ROBERT PYE, Impropriator.

IN the *7th.* month, 1678. *Michael Reynolds* was Arreſted for Tyth at the Suit of *Robert Pye*; and kept by the Bayliffs, Priſo ner at an Inn one day; and one (unknown to *Michael*) who pre tended himſelf an Attorney, promiſing to appear for him, he was le go: And *Robert Pye* proſecuted his Suit, (having no Defence mad at all againſt him) and procnred an Execution for ſixty Pound.

And on the 19*th.* day of the *6th.* month, 1679. there came *Jo Pullen* and *James Clark* of *Abingdon*, and *William Tombes* of *Farring don*, (Bayliffs) with the ſaid Execution, and ſeized on, and Drov away nine of *Michael Reynolds*'s Cows, and a Colt of two years ol and likewiſe ſeized on a Barn full of Corn; and the ſame day al they arreſted *Michael Reynolds* in the Suit of *Robert Pye*; and kept hi Priſoner at an Inn moſt part of a day, and when they ſaw he could

ploy an Attorney (but was given up to endure Impriſonment) they let m go.

And the 22*d.* day of the ſame month, two of the fore-mentioned yliffs (*viz.*) *James Clarke* and *Willam Tombes*, took away a Mare m *Michael* upon the ſame Execution; and in a little time after, the e Bayliffs ſent two men to thraſh out *Michael*'s Corn in the Barn hich they ſeized on before) whoſe Names were *William Farmer* and *rles Bray* of *Farringdon*, and they thraſht and winnowed all the Corn at Barn, which was carried away and ſold.

Again, the 10*th.* day of the 8*th.* month following, the ſaid Bayliffs me again to *Michael Reynolds*'s Houſe, and ſaid they had not yet en enough; and then they ſeized on the other Barn full of Corn, the two Thraſhers again to Work, and they thraſht out the Corn in that rn alſo.

And the 25*th.* day of the 9*th.* month following, the two Thraſhers the appointmnnt of *John Pulline*) took Witneſs, and delivered the Key and Lock of *Michael Reynolds*'s Barn to him, and gave an count under their hands, that the Corn thraſht by them, and winnowed, hich was carried away and ſold, to anſwer the Execution before-men-ned. was in all, of Barly 56 *Quarters* and a half, and was by them ged worth, at the times when it was carried 17 *s.* a Quarter one with ther, which came to ——————————— 49 *l.*--8 *s.*--9 *d*

of Beans and Peaſe 9 *Quarter*, at ——————————— 8 *l.*--8 *s.*--0*d*

the Cattle taken away, as before mentioned, were worth 40 *l.*--0 *s.*--0*d*

Which amount to in all — 97 *l.*--16 *s.*--9 *d.*

All this was taken away for one years Tyth from *Michael Reynolds*, nd the whole Rent of the Land he holds is, but 55 *l.* a year, and of at there is in Medow, where they took the Tyth by Force, and in paſture, here *Robert Pye* claims none to the value of 20 *l.* a year; So that the hole Rent of that Land which he had any Colour of Law to ſue for, ll not amount to 40 *l.* a year: And it may be ſuppoſed that the Tyth nnot in all likelyhood exceed a 4*th.* part of the Rent, which at utmoſt nnot be above 10 *l* a year.

And therefore it is evidently manifeſt, how cruelly and unjuſtly *Robert* e hath dealt in this Caſe with his Neighbour *Michael Reynolds* (although other Caſes we have not had much Cauſe to find Fault with him) who the denial of ſcarce 10 *l.* demanded, hath cauſed to be taken away Cattel and Corn, the value of 97 *l.* 16 *s.* 9*d.* which is near ten times uch more. Oh horrible Injuſtice, that ever ſuch Actions ſhould be

found amongſt ſuch as profeſs Chriſtianity, is great pity, and is a ſha
to the profeſſors thereof.

And beſides all this, the Servants of *R. P.* in the Harveſt-time, 16
did take away from *Michael Reynolds*, both of Hay and Corn what t
pleaſed, upon the account of Tyths.

The Truth hereof hath been ſo public
knovvn in and about the Tovvn
Farringdon, that it needs no furt
Prooff: But is ſubſcribed to by a
ferer for the Truth, againſt Opp
ſion.

MICHAEL REYNOLDS

THE END.